GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:802
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Agro-Marketing Facilities
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of proper marketing channel forces the farmers do distress sale of their agriculture produce and make themselves victims in the hands of middlemen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to set up a National Agricultural Market to provide benefit to the farmers and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to save the farmers from the clutches of the money lenders and the middlemen and provide them remunerative prices for their produce?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Lately, need for reforms have been felt in Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Acts of States/UTs to keep pace with changing requirements in agri-marketing sector. The Government is pursuing with States for adopting the suggested reforms in their Agri-marketing regulations. This inter-alia includes creation of private markets, farmer consumer market, National Agriculture Market, deregulation of fruits & vegetables from APMC Acts etc. The Government has recently prepared a draft of a new model APMC Act by incorporating the needed reforms and to make way for liberalized market for farmers.

(c) & (d): The National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) was launched on 14.04.2016. The scheme aims to create a unified agri-marketing portal for online trading of agri-produce. With online bidding, transparency and competition in APMC transactions will fetch better prices to the farmers for their produce. So far, 250 markets from 10 States have been integrated with e-NAM. This is targeted to increase to 400 by March, 2017 and 585 by March, 2018.

In addition to e-NAM scheme, liberalized Agri-marketing sector shall make valuable contribution to fetch remunerative prices to farmers. The Government is also promoting institutional lending to the farmers with interest subvention provision so as to save them from the clutches of money lenders.

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